

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00208 160816Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 NSC-06 NSCE-00 INR-05 SP-02
L-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ARA-06 EUR-08 AF-04 /059 W
-----160849Z 059654 /13

R 160640Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2323
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0208

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS
: OPEC, ENRG, QAN SA
SUBJECT: AMIR OF QATAR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDIS ON OPEC AND
OIL PRICES
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REF: DOHA 0147

1. DURING FEB 15 CONVERSATION, AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA
BIN HAMAD AL THANI BRIEFED ME ON HIS FEB 10 CONVERSATIONS IN
RIYADH WITH PRIME FAHD AND OTHER SENIOR SAG OFFICIALS ON
CURRENT OPIC AND OIL PRICE SITUATION.

FJH AMIR ADMITTED THAT SAUDIS HAD FLATLY REJECTED COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN CONVEYED BY QATARI OIL MINISTER. AMIR SAID HE GOT CLEAR WORD THAT SAUDIS WON'T BUDGE FROM FIVE PERCENT POSITION, WY LEAST FOR TIME BEING. AMIR INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD GIVEN HIS FULL SUPPORT TO GOQ OIL MINISTER'S EFFORTS TO SELL COMPROMISE, QATARIS HAD NOW RETIRED FROM THE FIELD.

3. AMIR SAID THAT ANOTHER EFFORT TO REACH SINGLE PRICE COMPROMISE WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ, WHO SCHEDULED TO VISIT AREA DURING LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY. ACCORDING KHALIFA, PEREZ WOULD BE IN QATAR ON FEB 25.

4. RE QATARI PRODUCTION AND SALES UNDER TWO-TIER PRICE SYSTEM, AMIR CLAIMED THAT GOQ NOT HURTING AT ALL AND HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE 11 COULD LIVE WITH TWO-TIER SYSTEM RELATIVELY INDEFINITELY IF SAUDIS AND UAE DID NOT BOOST THEIR PROBOITION SIGNIFICANTLY, WHICH HE THOUGHT UNLIKELY.

5. ACCORDING KHALIFA, MOST SERIOUS ASPECT OF OPEC SPLIT WAS THAT IT HAD BECOME "POLITICAL ISSUE" BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AND TO A LESSER EXTENT BETWEEN IRAN AND UAE. HE OBSERVED IT NOT GOOD FOR AREA STABILITY TO HAVE REGION'S BIG POWERS AT ODDS, BUT STRONG FEELINGS AND FACE ARE INVOLVED AND, THEREFORE, IT COULD BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS TO WORK THINGS OUT.

6. RE STATUS OF SAUDI-QATARI RELATIONS BECAUSE OF OPEC SPLIT, AMIR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SAUDIS HAD BEEN ANGRY WITH GOQ'S STAYING WITH THE 11. HE MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT SHORT NOTICE OF SAUDI SHIFT TO FREEZE/FIVE PERCENT INCREASE POSITION AND GOQ'S POSITION AS HOST GOVT TO OPEC MINISTERIAL HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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QATARIS NOT RPT NOT TO GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY. ACCORDING KHALIFA, SAUDIS HAD COOLED OFF AND APPEARED TO "UNDERSTAND" GOQ'S POSITION. HE INDICATED ONE OF REASONS FOR HIS TRIP TO RIYADH WAS TO COMPLETE SMOOTHING OF RUFFLED SAUDI FEATHERS. PAGANELLI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEE.

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